

Message Text

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UNCLAS SAIGON 14613

USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: PROPOSED VTR SERIES ON HIGHER EDUCATION IN U.S.

REF: USIA-CM 1470

1. POST CONSIDERS PROPOSED SERIES POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT RESOURCE FOR ONGOING COUNSELING AND LECTURE PROGRAM. WILL ALSO BE USEFUL UPGRADE PREDEPARTURE ORIENTATION FOR FULBRIGHT AND OTHER STUDENTS.

2. VTR "IF YOU WANT STUDY U.S." QUITE WELL DONE, APPROPRIATE FOR USE WITH ACADEMIC AND CULTURAL AUDIENCES HERE. SUBJECT SERIES WILL BE VALUABLE ADJUNCT. PREFER INDIVIDUAL VTR PROGRAMS OF TWENTY MINUTES OR SO.

3. RECOMMEND IMV ARRANGE PARTICIPATION VIETNAMESE STUDENTS IN SOME SUBSEQUENT VTR'S. GVN EMBASSY WASHINGTON MAY HELP. OR AT LEAST PUT IMV IN TOUCH WITH NAT ASSOC VIETNAM STUDENTS IN U.S.

4. AS VIETNAMESE STUDENTS FULLY AWARE DESIRABILITY STUDY IN U.S., SUGGEST VTR'S EMPHASIZE INFORMATION, NOT BLANDISHMENT, PRESENT FACTUAL PORTRAIT OF HIGHER EDUCATION. RESTRAIN, AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, UNDERSTANDABLE TENDENCY GLAMORIZE.

5. RECOMMEND PANEL DISCUSSION ON ADJUNCT TO LIFE IN U.S. (ASSUMING PARTICIPATION FOREIGN STUDENTS): GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY, UNCLASSIFIED

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CLIMATE, DIFFERENT FOODS, ACCENTED ENGLISH OF FOREIGN STUDENT,

CASUALNESS, PRAGMATISM. PAY SOME ATTENTION TO LESS POSITIVE ASPECTS OF US SOCIETY EMPHASIZING REASONS FOR THESE PROBLEMS AND HOW WE ARE TRYING SOLVE THEM.

6. IMV MAY WISH PROVIDE BRIEF TREATMENT OF HOW AMERICAN MAY VIEW FOREIGNER AND HIS CULTURE.

7. FOR SPECIALLY TARGETED PROGRAM WE WOULD PREFER 30 MINUTE PANEL OR DISCUSSION PROGRAM IN VIETNAMESE ON SUBJECT OF CROSS-CULTURAL ADJUSTMENTS PECULIAR TO VIETNAMESE LIVING IN THE U.S. OF SPECIAL INTEREST WOULD BE A DISCUSSION OF "CULTURAL SHOCK" OR HOW INITIAL SUPERFICIAL IMPRESSIONS OR STEREOTYPES MAY HAVE CHANGED AS A RESULT OF PROLONGED STAY IN U.S. SOCIETY. CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS, GESTURES AND/OR BODY LANGUAGE DIFFERENCES AND SIMILARITIES WOULD ALSO BE OF INTEREST TO OUR SELECTED VIETNAMESE AUDIENCES.

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